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# 1988 B.Y. Morrison Memorial Lecture

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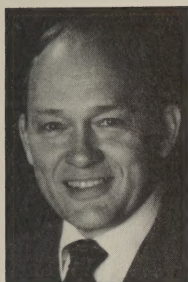
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# *Horticulture at the Millenium*

by Dr. Richard W. Lighty

Saturday, May 14, 1988, 9:00 a.m.  
Kiva Rooms A and B, Scottsdale Hilton  
Scottsdale, Arizona

presented by  
The Agricultural Research Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
in cooperation with  
The American Association of  
Botanical Gardens and Arboreta



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**Richard W. Lighty** is director of Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora on the estate of Mrs. Lammot du Pont Copeland in Greenville, Delaware. Dr. Lighty is leading the effort to develop the Center as a public display garden that will emphasize the conservation and garden use of our native plant heritage.

In addition to the display and education functions, the Center will evaluate the species of the Piedmont for their horticulturally important variation and will introduce and promote plants with specific qualities useful to gardeners. Since such selected types are rarely found in the wild, Dr. Lighty believes that demand for them will create an economic incentive for nurseries to propagate rather than dig plants from the wild.

Dr. Lighty received his baccalaureate degree in horticulture from Pennsylvania State University and his Master's and Doctoral degrees from Cornell University with a major in plant breeding and genetics and minors in botany and ornamental horticulture. Following this, he went to Longwood Gardens as the first geneticist in charge of research, which involved breeding specific plants for well-defined goals, evaluating and disseminating plants introduced by Longwood, and applying new technologies for producing plants. In 1967, he became the first coordinator of the Longwood Graduate Program in public garden management at the University of Delaware—a program that under Dr. Lighty's guidance has become the standard of management training for public horticulture.

His travels have taken him to Korea, where he collected ornamental plants for Longwood Gardens and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as to Europe, Africa, Central America, and South America.

Dr. Lighty is a member and past president (1978-79) of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the North American Lily Society, and the American Association of Museums as well as several garden advisory boards. He lives in southeastern Pennsylvania where he and his wife, Sally, garden on eight acres of woodland and meadow.



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**The B.Y. Morrison Memorial Lectureship** was established in 1968 by the Agricultural Research Service to recognize scientists who have made outstanding contributions to ornamental horticulture and other environmental sciences, to encourage the wider application of these sciences, and to stress the urgency of preserving and enhancing natural beauty.

**Benjamin Y. Morrison** (1891-1966) was a pioneer in ornamental horticulture and first director of the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. A scientist, landscape architect, plant explorer, author, and lecturer, he advanced the science of botany in the United States and fostered broad international exchange of ornamental plants. His legacy to the American public includes dozens of new ornamental plants, including the famous Glenn Dale azaleas.

**The Agricultural Research Service**, the main scientific research agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, helps provide knowledge and technology for the benefit of American farmers and consumers. The research includes safeguarding soil, water, air, plants, and animals from pollution; protecting crops and livestock from insects, diseases, and other pests; providing beautiful and useful plants for rural and urban environments; and packaging technical information for users in more accessible forms.

**The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta** assists North American public gardens in fulfilling their missions of education, research, and display through its publications, meetings, and other programs and activities. Annual meeting sessions this year cover horticulture, administration, development, visitor programming, ethnobotany, and university gardens. The Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, primary host of this year's meeting, is devoted to conservation, research, and display of desert plants from all over the world, with emphasis on the succulent plants of the desert Southwest.



